

Wherever you go in Liberty State Park, you will find the gardens. Whether you arrive on foot, from the nearby Light Rail, or on a bike or by bus or car, you can't help but notice them, situated along the main thoroughfares and public plazas as well as on the quiet pathways. Use this map to discover the gardens for yourself at your own pace. Parking is available at either end, and in the middle of the park. There are accessible restrooms in several convenient locations.

From north to south, the park comprises loosely-designated areas, in which you will find the sixteen gardens described in this brochure: the CRRNJ Terminal area, fronting the river at the northeast corner; the Grove of Remembrance, stretching along the northern edge; the "Green Park", an 88-acre wide-open plain following the shoreline and crisscrossed by a network of paths; the State Natural Area/Tidal Marsh; and the Visitor Center/Overlook Lawn/Picnic Area.

Since 1988, the Friends of Liberty State Park (FOLSP) a grassroots, all-volunteer group and an NJDEP Officially-Recognized Friends Organization, has been dedicated to preserving, conserving, protecting and promoting this majestic open space behind the Statue of Liberty. Through its Garden Volunteer & tree-planting programs, FOLSP has fostered the transformation of this once-abandoned property from near ruin to an irreplaceable, national treasure, whose commanding views of the harbor are unequalled and with each year bring more and more visitors. LSP is now the second most-visited state park in our nation. With unsurpassed scenic features—the panorama of NY Harbor, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and the NYC skyline—a vast green space with infinite open sky, LSP is unique among public spaces, an oasis of calm in the heart of America's densest population center. Built on the remains of one of the busiest rail terminals in the US, the park now boasts a promenade traversing the water's edge, extending 1.75 miles from the historic CRRNJ Rail Terminal at the northeast corner of the park (facing Lower Manhattan less than a mile away) to the farthest southeastern point directly opposite the Statue of Liberty (just over 2000 ft. from the park); as well as large lawns, a Nature Interpretive Center, playgrounds, picnic areas and pathways, and...a flourishing Volunteer Gardening Program. In addition to the gardens identified on this map, there are

# The Gardens at Liberty State Park

The gardens are public and open to all visitors.



numerous small plots situated at occasional intersections for you to enjoy.

These gardens range from casual and rugged to semi-formal. The challenges of gardening in Liberty State Park are many. It is unprotected from a steady breeze and the soil quality is uneven, most of it landfill from generations of hard industrial use. Gardening here demands a creative, rehabilitative approach. All the gardens in LSP are the work of volunteers.

**V**olunteer gardening at LSP is a year-round event. No experience is necessary. You will receive whatever instruction and tools are required for the project at hand. Just bring yourself and your enthusiasm (and maybe a friend or two). If you are already an experienced gardener, your skills will be much appreciated. We plant & weed, prune & mulch, and have a good time outdoors every Saturday morning, weather permitting. Here, you can experience the satisfaction and joy that come from kneeling in the earth and preparing a bed for planting, made all the more thrilling by the grandeur of the NYC skyline and the Statue of Liberty.

**To help us in our efforts, and for the enjoyment of all visitors, please don't pick the flowers or disturb the plants in any way.**

PHOTO CREDITS: Michel Cuillerier, Agnes de Bethune, Matt Hopkins, Monico Rabara COVER PHOTO: John Tichenor  
BROCHURE DESIGN & MAP: Agnes de Bethune  
A publication of the FRIENDS OF LIBERTY STATE PARK  
©2012 FOLSP

**1 GROVE OF REMEMBRANCE** A 9/11 living memorial of trees planted in memory of New Jerseyans who lost their lives on that day. Meandering paths take you from the north park entrance toward the waterfront. Along the way, you can enjoy numerous attractive plantings including a quiet circle of shrubs and rose bushes surrounding a commemorative plaque listing the 9/11 victims' names. Spread across ten acres, the plantings include Maple, Birch, Willow, Willow Oak and a variety of evergreens; *Viburnum*, Holly, Barberry, *Magnolia*, Beautyberry, roses and wildflowers.

**2 BUTTERFLY & HUMMINGBIRD GARDEN** Planted specifically to attract butterflies & hummingbirds, Black Locust, Alder and Quaking Aspen surround the plots in a small maze of paths with benches. Plants include: *Sedum*, *Aster*, Foxglove, *Viburnum*, *Spirea*, Bayberry, Elderberry, *Knifophia*, *Penstemon*, Columbine and Rose Mallow, with generous groupings of daffodils and tulips each spring. Sit for a moment on a bench and you might just catch sight of a hummingbird sipping nectar.

**3 NORTH HERB CIRCLE** Low-growing beds of fragrant *Rosa rugosa*, lavender, lilac and daylilies encircle a handsome Linden tree.

**4 NORTH FLAG PLAZA** A small east-facing roadside area flanked by benches and beds of *Spirea* and Barberry; a place to rest and contemplate the magnificent scenery under a big sky amid Fountain grass, Maiden grass and Blue Fescue; with bulbs and irises in spring.

**5 FREEDOM WAY GARDENS** Three long mounds form the median here, at the intersection of Freedom Way and Audrey Zapp Drive. Symmetrical plantings of ornamental grasses of varying scale give dynamic structure to these beds, forming the background for seasonally changing bulbs and perennials.

**6 RR TERMINAL GARDENS** The north side of the CRRNJ Terminal building features four plots within the plaza, each containing a centerpiece of tall ornamental grass, low shrubs and colorful seasonal flowers. Just west of the terminal entrance, a raised bed contains peonies, lilies and phlox, and each spring, bursts forth in an opulent array of Dutch tulips.

**7 RIVERSIDE GARDENS** Eighteen plots border the southern edge of the historic Terminal Train Shed. With Ellis Island in the background, ornamental grasses make a kinetic display in this windy spot alongside the river. *Viburnum*, Gold-thread *Chamaecyparis* and white *Spirea* are accented by clusters of bulbs in spring and mounds of mums in the fall.

**8 PLAYGROUND GARDENS** A row of evergreens marks the roadside entrance. Ash, hawthorn and redbud surround benches near the raised beds containing ornamental fruit trees and a variety of daylilies, *Gaillardia*, Mexican Hats and other wildflowers.

**9 MASTER GARDEN** This semi-circular garden, protected by a small berm, was planted by the Rutgers University Master Gardeners. Against a thicket of Red-osier Dogwood, the bed contains sturdy perennial herbs like hyssop, catmint and lavender. Mats of aromatic oregano grow below benches surrounding the plaza which affords a direct view of Ellis Island.

**10 ELLIS ISLAND BRIDGE GARDENS** Gardens flanking the intersection of the service road with the Promenade hold *Yucca*, Prickly Pear, daylilies, irises, Black-eyed Susan and mints. In the rocks along the shoreline are Black Pines, goldenrod and *Rosa rugosa*.

**11 GREEN PARK HERB GARDEN** Located within the "Green Park" area, this semi-formal, circular garden is a favorite destination for walkers and bikers. With Boxwood & Linden and several types of mint, lavender and daylilies, it provides a soothing and fragrant place to rest.

**12 CHERRY TREE LANE** Lined on both sides with cherry trees, this charming pathway wanders up a small hill to a sweeping view of the harbor.

**13 RICHARD J. SULLIVAN NATURAL AREA** This 36-acre State Natural Area protects one of the few remaining tidal marshes of the Hudson River estuary. Adjacent to it is the pond, a restoration of previously contaminated wetlands. Visit the Nature Interpretive Center here—housed in a building designed by renowned architect Michael Graves—surrounded by irises and wildflower gardens.

**14 GLADYS' GARDEN** This graceful and creative planting enlivens the busy intersection of Freedom Way and Morris Pesin Drive. Stop a moment to admire irises, asters, sunflowers, miniature roses, and tulips.

**15 VISITOR CENTER GARDENS** *Hosta* and daylilies ornament the parking areas and surround the LSP's Visitor Center. Dwarf evergreens, wildflowers and perennials provide the accents with a glorious springtime assortment of daffodils and hyacinths.

**16 LIBERATION MONUMENT GARDEN** In the center of the south Overlook Lawn, at the base of the monument, with a stunning view of the Verrazano Bridge, is a tiny plot with benches, containing Heather and Yew.

STATUE OF LIBERTY



Summer's perennial display includes the wild, intensely fragrant rugosa-type roses and some surprises like yucca and the prickly pear cactus. Fall brings its brilliantly-hued foliage followed by the subtler colors and enhanced textures of the winter landscape, all set against the spectacular backdrop of NY Harbor and the Statue of Liberty.



## Free, Open & Green!



Get to know the park in all its seasons: a continually changing array of blooms starting with the pussy willow and witch hazel in

earliest spring, followed by tens of thousands of bulbs—crocus, hyacinth, daffodils, tulips—and the delightful cherry blossoms.



# The Gardens at Liberty State Park

# MAP & GUIDE

FRIENDS OF LIBERTY STATE PARK  
WWW.FOLSP.ORG



Species Tulips



Hibiscus



Parrot Tulip



Volunteers @ the Playground



Fall Grasses @ the Pond



Spring @ Green Park



Hawthorn berries



The Master Garden



Black-eyed Susans



Poppies



Playground Gardens



Rosa rugosa



Gladys' Garden



Tree planting @ Green Park



Young Volunteers



Viburnum



Daylilies



Volunteers @ CRNJ Terminal



Crocus



North Herb Circle



Green Park Herb Garden



Pussy Willow



Riverside Gardens



Freedom Way Gardens



Cherry Tree Lane



Cherry Blossoms

Red-osier Dogwood



Columbine



Lavender



Habitat Restoration @ the Pond

Witch Hazel

Freedom Way Gardens



The Grove of Remembrance

Echinacea

## VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Every Saturday, from 9 AM to noon throughout the year. No experience necessary. Just bring your willingness and your enthusiasm!

### VOLUNTEER • CONTRIBUTE

For more info, contact LSP's Gardener, Maria at: [ispgardening@verizon.net](mailto:ispgardening@verizon.net) or call 201.915.3418

Corporate and non-profit volunteer groups are also welcome. To arrange for a group, please contact Michel Cuillierier, Vice-President

FOLSP Corporate Volunteer Program at: [friendsispgardening@gmail.com](mailto:friendsispgardening@gmail.com)

Join us in shaping a world-class future for Liberty State Park by supporting the Friends of LSP's Volunteer Gardening Program. Contributions are tax deductible.

FOLSP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. TO DONATE ONLINE, please go to: [www.folsp.org/donate/donate\\_now.html](http://www.folsp.org/donate/donate_now.html)

FRIENDS OF LIBERTY STATE PARK • 201.792.1993  
P.O. Box 3407 • Jersey City NJ 07303-3407  
[www.folsp.org](http://www.folsp.org) • [pesinliberty@earthlink.net](mailto:pesinliberty@earthlink.net)

LIBERTY STATE PARK • 201.915.3400 (ext. 101)  
200 Morris Pesin Drive • Jersey City, NJ 07305  
[www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/liberty.html](http://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/liberty.html)

**Friends of Liberty State Park**  
To preserve, protect, conserve and promote Liberty State Park

